

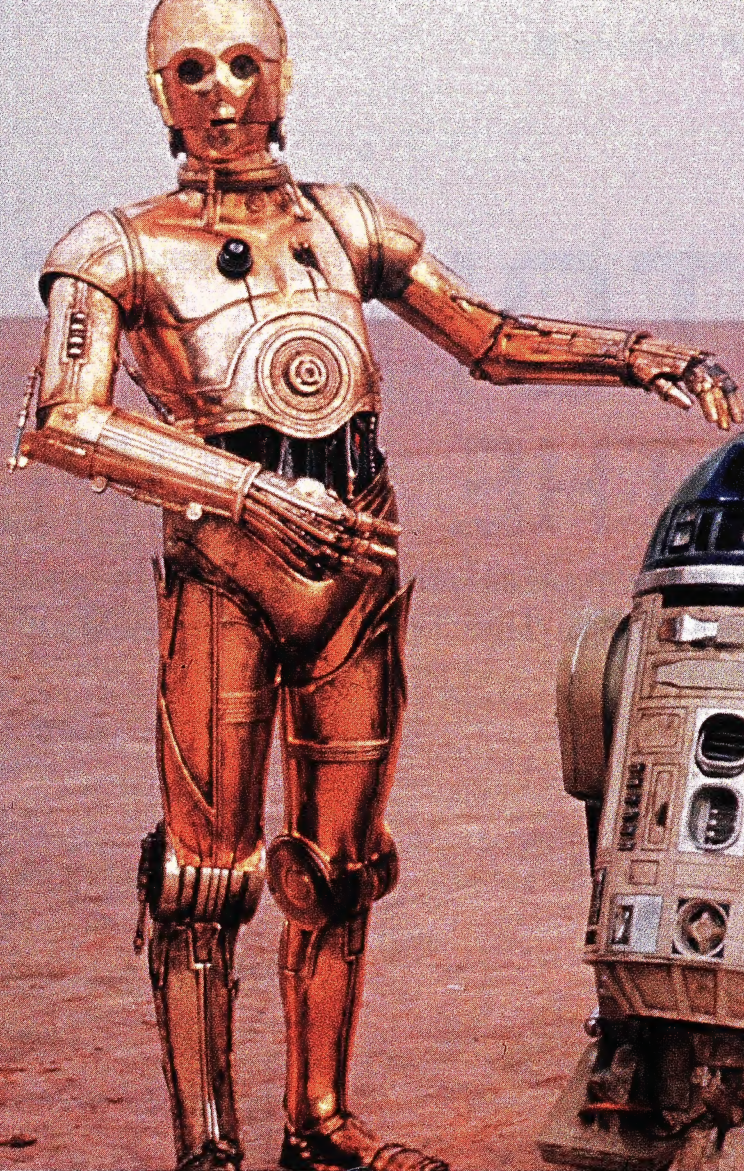
# AUTOMATIC FOR THE PEOPLE

Let's be honest. Deep down, we all know our lives would be made better by owning a robot. But which classic TV/movie model should you go for?

WORDS: TOM BOURTON

**E**ver since Isaac Asimov began writing his ground-breaking robot stories in the 1940s, we've been fascinated by the thought of employing hulking great metallic slaves to do our bidding and occasionally threaten any annoying neighbours with laser death-beams. However, before purchasing a classic sci-fi number you must ensure it is the right one for you and your family. With this in mind, we have assembled a collection of the world's finest robots, androids and cybernetic organisms for your buying pleasure and convenience. Each model can be fully previewed on its own top quality sci-fi DVD – simply watch the film, then buy the droid... ➔



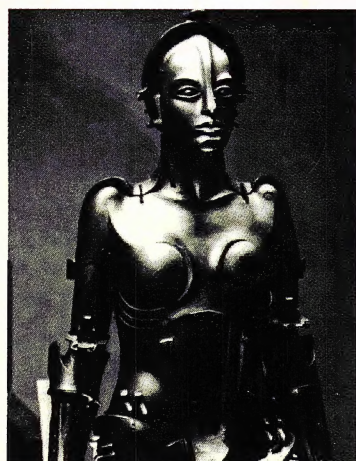


ROBOT

## C-3PO AND R2-D2.

DEMONSTRATION THE PHANTOM MENACE.

PRICED AT ⌘ 49.95

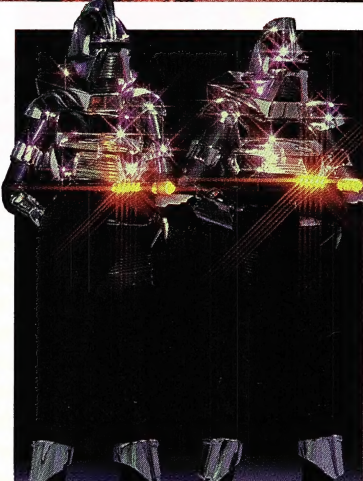


### FUTURA

DEMONSTRATION *Metropolis* (\$28.95)

⌘ Created by the mad scientist of industrial dystopia *Metropolis*, Futura is arguably the most influential robot ever designed, inspiring both C-3PO and beautiful experimental replicant Rachel in *Blade Runner*. Futura can't fire death-rays, super rocket launchers and has no built-in mini-cannons, so more of a trophy robot really. Can, however, assume the appearance of any person and bring about the downfall of tyrannical capitalist regimes. Which is handy if you are, say, a budding Fidel Castro.

⌘ PRICE Proletariat revolt.



### CYLON CENTURION

DEMONSTRATION *Battlestar Galactica* (\$189)

⌘ Developed by a race of evil reptile geniuses, the intimidating Cylons destroyed their masters and set off across the universe in unlikely oyster-shaped spaceships. We've acquired a selection of Centurions each equipped with glowing red eye strip and terrifying "battle skirt." Designed with thrift in mind, the Cylon is our multi-purpose, budget-friendly homicidal robot.

⌘ PRICE 5,000 cubits each (replacement red eye lightbulbs are available for ten Cubits each).



### ROBOT

DEMONSTRATION *Lost In Space* (\$24.95)

⌘ This strapping automaton was developed to maintain systems aboard the Jupiter 2 spacecraft on its mission to set up a hyperdrive gate between Earth and Alpha Prime. Unfortunately the mission ended in failure, so we have this highly obedient robot at a bargain price! Features include the ability to fire a strong electrical charge from its metal claws and to repeat the phrase "Danger Will Robinson!" until you lose the will to live.

⌘ PRICE \$1 to families willing to jettison themselves across space on board the Jupiter 2.

### ⌘ THIS FEATURE-PACKED

twosome represents a great buy for any space pilot/diplomat who works regularly with computers. R2-D2 is an astromech droid perfect for retrieving information from mainframe systems, co-piloting X-Wing fighters and serving drinks at parties. C-3PO is our striking golden protocol droid, fluent in over six million forms of communication, including Hutt, Ewok, Bocce and Dutch. Admittedly, this model has had 43 previous owners (including at least two Jedi warriors) and was built by a nine-year-old boy, but he's in great condition.

⌘ PRICE 400 Credits (memory formatting not included).

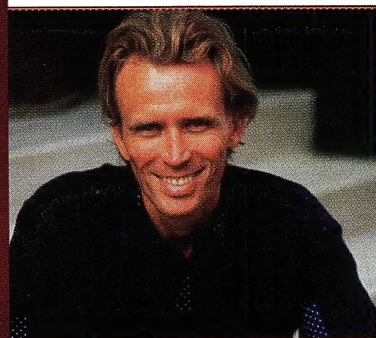
## C-3PO

- ⌘ Six million languages!
- ⌘ Neon and infra-red visual systems!
- ⌘ Prone to humorous cowardly bickering!

## R2-D2

- ⌘ Excellent data retrieval and storage facilities!
- ⌘ Holographic projector!
- ⌘ Power charge for electrocuting small animals and children!





## WELLER- WELLER- WELLER OOH!

He chowed down on a *Naked Lunch*, but Peter Weller is still best known as the robot cop with attitude and the ultimate bulletproof chest...

"It's the most successful movie I made and also one of the better ones I think..." considers Peter Weller on the subject of his breakthrough film *RoboCop*. "Bogart said you're lucky if you make two films that outlive you and I think I've made three: *Naked Lunch*, *The New Age* and *RoboCop*."

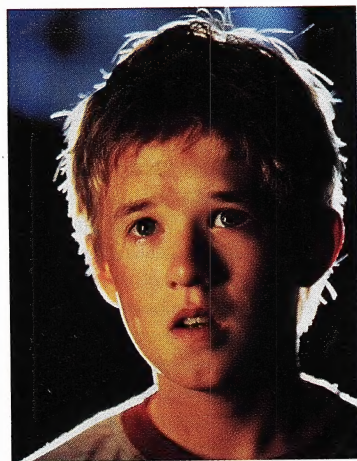
He's certainly right about *RoboCop*, the satirical, violent, funny, mid-'80s sci-fi classic. But evidently, making the film itself was a tough experience for the now 53-year-old actor. "There was a lot of work went into it, six months of movement training — a lot of work, man. It's not just a role that I just stepped into. I created it from the ground up, along with the guy who created the suit. When I put the whole suit on, it weighed 40 pounds."

Yet, with the budget problems, the numerous creative rows on set, the vast complexities of filming in the Robo-suit and director Paul Verhoeven's relentless perfectionism, surely the film had no reason to end up a classic?

"Well..." ponders Weller, staring out the window, "I had a feeling just because of Verhoeven's drive and vision that it was going to be a good film, but I didn't know it was going to be so successful. You never do. I'd seen all Verhoeven's movies and he was auditioning people and I said I wouldn't audition, but I told him he loved allegories in his films and the shell of the movie was an action film, but I knew he was going to do something else with it. We had loads of conversations, so by the time we started filming we were on the same wavelength. But I didn't know his pace; his pace was manic. I'd love to work with him again."

Sitting with Weller 15 years after *RoboCop*'s release, it's obvious that he still has an enormous amount of pride in the film. "You know, I was very happy to be part of *RoboCop* and very happy to leave it after number 2. I haven't seen *RoboCop 2* in ten years and I haven't seen *RoboCop 3* at all, but hey, the DVD I'll watch, I'm a DVD freak. Plus, in the original film, they've put back all the sequences that were cut from the censored version we've seen to date. It's more violent and funnier now, the way that both myself and Verhoeven wanted but we couldn't get away with at the time."

INTERVIEW BY DAN RIDER

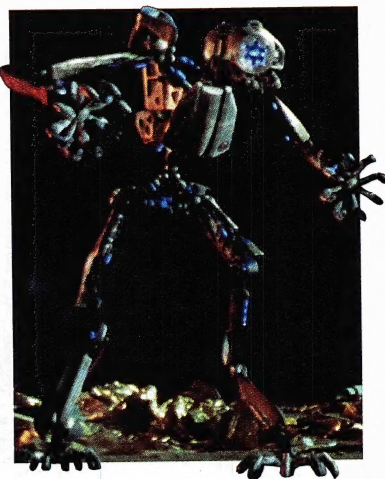


### DAVID

DEMONSTRATION A.I. (\$36.95)

✂ Yes, the next generation mecha-children from Cybertronics Manufacturing are bright, cute, fully capable of affection and they never grow up! They are also very simple to configure — just get it out of the box, switch it on and it "imprints" its emotional needs onto you. It will now instantly become a loveable companion that never misbehaves, rather than some dysfunctional monster who is constantly clawing for attention. Go on, treat yourself: get a mecha double-pack today!

✂ PRICE Three tons of sickly sentimentality and a big box of tissues.



### AMEE

DEMONSTRATION Red Planet (\$32.95)

✂ AMEE (autonomous mapping evaluation and Evasion) is a droid that accompanies astronauts on interplanetary research missions. The unit could be reconfigured for use on those long country rambles when you suddenly realise you don't have a clue where you are and it's getting cold and dark. AMEE comes with a self-destruct mode and a military mode in which it starts trying to kill everyone. Avoid this mode.

✂ PRICE \$200,000 (Accidental activation of military mode helpline: \$100/minute.)

## ROBOT ED-209

DEMONSTRATION **ROBOCOP.**

PRICED AT ✂ \$4.95

✂ LAW ENFORCEMENT'S LOSS is your gain! Yes, the impressively armed Enforcement Droid 209, designed by Omni Consumer Corp, is available to the public at a low, low price (free, in fact) due to minor problems with its neural network firmware. Perfect for Neighbourhood Watch schemes — once a stranger is requested to leave the area he won't need "20 seconds to comply"! Comes with twin mini-guns, several thousand rounds of ammunition and educational "don't upset ED" CD-ROM. However, with this sensitive model, it is pretty much imperative that you do not show fear or tell weak jokes. Unfortunately, the Enforcement Droid has no sense of humour and possesses sociopathic tendencies.

✂ PRICE Free to anyone who can and will collect it from OCP headquarters without getting themselves killed.



MODEL **S.I.M.O.N.**

DEMONSTRATION **TOMB RAIDER.**

PRICED AT **✂ 36.95**

#### COMBAT TRAINING ROBOT CREATED

by Lara Croft's resident computer nerd, Bryce. S.I.M.O.N. features six multi-purpose appendages, including two with special buzz saw attachments – a formidable opponent for anyone seeking to improve their fighting skills. Doubles as a handy mini disc player.

✂ **PRICE** \$20,000 (extra life insurance and buildings cover advised).

#### OUR SENSORS INDICATE THAT

**S.I.M.O.N. was inspired by a plastic boxing training device that Simon West saw advertised in an American infomercial.**



#### BISHOP 341-B

DEMONSTRATION Aliens (\$24.95)

✂ Upgrade now! Dissatisfied with the performance of your Hyperdyne Systems 120-A/2 android? Does it continually disobey orders? Are you fed up with it trying to choke you to death with rolled-up jazz mags? It's time for an upgrade! Hyperdyne's new Bishop 341-B synthetic is a more trustworthy android worker, complete with behavioural inhibitors which bind him to Isaac Asimov's first law of robotics (i.e don't kill humans) Also does great party tricks with a hunting knife and an open hand.

✂ **PRICE** \$200,000 (Bishop to PC cable – download MP3 files to your android! – \$40).



#### DUEY

DEMONSTRATION Silent Running (\$19.95)

✂ Gardening can be backbreaking and monotonous work – but not if you get a cuddly, wholesome droid to do all the hard work for you (just ask Don Burke). Built to maintain the botanical domes aboard the Ark-like spaceship Valley Forge, Duey (along with his zany pals Huey and Louie) has no machine guns, rocket launchers or death rays, but can grow a mean tropical rainforest and are ideal for pulling up weeds.

✂ **PRICE** \$300 (includes trowel, seeds, watering can and dibber).



#### MARVIN THE PARANOID ANDROID

DEMONSTRATION The Hitch-Hiker's Guide To The Galaxy (\$49.95)

✂ Fed up of happy robots? The Sirius Cybernetics Corporation has the droid for you. After years manufacturing endlessly cheerful automatic doors, the SCC branched out to build robots with "genuine people personalities". The first prototype was Marvin – gloomy and prone to delusions of grandeur, he seems to have been given the "genuine people personality" of an ancient Liberal cabinet minister. Oddly, the Sirius Cybernetics Corporation refers to Marvin as 'your plastic pal who's fun to be with'. The Hitch-Hiker's Guide To The Galaxy, meanwhile, describes the Sirius Cybernetics Corporation as "a bunch of mindless jerks who will be the first against the wall when the revolution comes".

✂ **PRICE** \$1,500 (guaranteed to depress).

#### OUR SENSORS INDICATE THAT

... Actually, Marvin's personality is based on comedy writer Andrew Marshall, a friend of Douglas Adams. The robot was only intended to be in one Hitch-Hiker's episode, but Stephen Moore's excellent performance as the voice of the depressed droid ensured he stayed throughout.



**WARNING:** Can be seriously damaged by liquid nitrogen. KEEP AWAY FROM SMELTING FURNACES. Exposure to temperatures of over 1,500 degrees centigrade will cause unit's poly alloy to break up and invalidate the warranty.

MODEL **T-1000**  
DEMONSTRATION **TERMINATOR 2.**  
PRICE **£34.95**

✧ **FOR TRACKING DOWN AND** eliminating business rivals or friends who've irritated you, the old Cyberdyne T-800 infiltration cyborg used to be unbeatable with its armoured hyper-alloy combat chassis and adept use of the Uzi 9mm. But now Skynet is offering the T-1000. Formed from an ultra-advanced mimetic poly alloy, this unit can assume the shape of anything it touches, making it almost impossible to detect. It can also shape its limbs into useful implements – although it favours enormous stabbing prongs. Worried about breaking it? Don't be! Even blowing the T-1000 to pieces won't stop it – each molecule is programmed with the data necessary to reconstruct the whole entity.

✧ **PRICE** Free to malevolent computer systems bent on world domination (T-800: \$500 for spares or repair).





MODEL **ROY BATTY.**

DEMONSTRATION **BLADE RUNNER.**

PRICED AT **¥29.95!**

**THE NEXUS-6 SERIES OF** replicants, designed by JF Sebastian and Eldon Tyrell for the Tyrell Corporation, are the most realistic artificial humans ever produced. Replicants\* are genetically engineered lifeforms, constructed entirely from organic matter (no cumbersome metal bits!) and imbued with superhuman strength. The finest specimen ever created is Roy Batty, whose mental and physical attributes both rate as an 'A'. Originally designed for combat work within the Colonial Defence Programme, Batty has, according to some reviewers, achieved almost angelic status as his dialogue is loaded with Christian symbolism. He also has really nice blonde hair. ✕ **PRICE \$500,000** (including four years' worth of nice blonde hair dye).

- ✕ Excellent for metaphysical and philosophical conversation!
- ✕ Guaranteed lifespan of four years!
- ✕ Also available in a specially priced twin-pack with Pris the pleasure replicant!

## BUILD THE PERFECT ROBOT

Like humans, every production line robot has its weaknesses. ED-209 is notoriously trigger happy, while C-3PO's limbs seem to come off at the drop of a hat. So why not let us construct the perfect droid to fulfil your exact specifications? Here's an example...

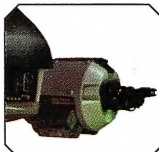
### HEAD: C-3PO

Six million forms of communication and infrared vision to boot!



### LEFT ARM: ED-209

Enormous mini-gun attachment, perfect for home defence purposes.



### RIGHT ARM: T-1000

The ability of this limb to morph into a huge spike is bound to come in useful in the garden, if only as a deterrent to local cats.



### TORSO: FUTURA

The sexiest robot body ever created. Mmmm.



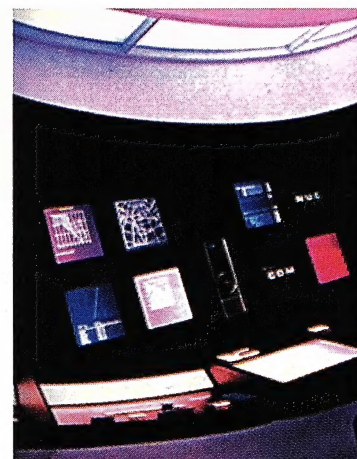
### LEGS: GORT

Very long and apparently impervious to bullets (although the prototype's legs were actually constructed from ineffective rubber!)



### FEET: MARVIN

Not particularly attractive, but large, sturdy and stable – the only part of Marvin that's not prone to morose genuflection.



### HAL

**DEMONSTRATION 2001: A Space Odyssey (\$34.95)**

✕ Need a sentient being to help with the daily chores, but don't want an android following you around dripping oil everywhere? HAL (which stands for Heuristic Algorithmic Computer and is not a play on IBM) is a powerful artificially intelligent system that can be installed to run your entire home. Just don't try to de-install it without proper supervision, because it may take umbrage and blast you off into space. Can also perform a spooky rendition of "Daisy, Daisy". ✕ **PRICE \$9,999** (handle with care).